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England under the Stuarts. By G. M. TREVELYAN. (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons; London: Methuen and Company. 1904. Pp. xvi, 566.)

THE present book by the author of *England in the Age of Wycliffe* is the fifth volume of a series known as *A History of England*, in six volumes, under the general editorship of Mr. C. W. C. Oman. The purpose of this series, as we learn from Mr. Oman's introductory note, is to provide by judicious co-operation of specialists a history of England for the general reader, a person whom he conceives to be much neglected in this age of history-writing. Such a series as this he declares is necessary to keep pace with the new information which for twenty years has come to our knowledge so rapidly and in such bulk as to destroy the value of the older histories. "We see issuing from the press", he continues, "hundreds of monographs, biographies, editions of old texts, selections from correspondence, or collections of statistics, mediæval and modern. But the writers who (like the late Bishop Stubbs or Professor Samuel Gardiner) undertake to tell over again the history of a long period, with the aid of all the newly discovered material, are few indeed." The general public therefore finds no work between a school manual and a minute monograph in answer to its demand for "standard" histories. With this point of view one may have much sympathy, and whatever need there may be of such popular history this book by Mr. Trevelyan is fully competent to meet. But that it bears any such relation to the seventeenth century as the work of Professor Gardiner bears to the period from 1603 to 1660, or that of Bishop Stubbs to the constitutional development of England before 1485 no one could seriously maintain. Such an implication is at once unfair and unfortunate, and the book should not be judged by such a standard.

We have here an account of the history of England from 1603 to 1714 relying for its material almost wholly upon the investigations of others. It is essentially a popular history, and one likely to become so in fact as well as in name. It pretends to no considerable use of sources, and the fact that the *Calendars of State Papers* find bare mention in its bibliography, and the *Reports of the Historical Manuscripts Commission* but the scantest of notices, determines its status beyond doubt. It is, unlike the work of Professor Gardiner and Bishop Stubbs, no great original contribution to knowledge. It appeals to the general reader as their work probably never would, and there is every reason to believe that its appeal is likely to be successful. The style is easy, graceful, and picturesque, at times vigorous, and generally convincing. The book is especially strong on the social side, as might be expected. No less than seventy-two pages are given at the outset to a description of the England of 1603-1640, and much more such material finds place in the course of the work. There is a strong, and on the whole successful, attempt throughout to reproduce the atmosphere of each period touched upon. The point of view, the attitude of this

party and that, the condition of society and its classes, the opinions and sentiments of men, their surroundings and relations, these bulk large everywhere. The result is that one may learn here much about why certain things occurred. But he is not always so fortunate in learning just what occurred, or how, or when. The book is, in short, stronger in description and analysis than in narration. From one standpoint it lacks action. But the discussion of this method of treatment would raise again that much-mooted question What is History? in a form too great for the limits of this or any review. Mr. Trevelyan has already expressed himself on that subject, and it is only necessary to note that this book exemplifies his conception.

Whether his point of view is responsible for the proportions in the present volume or not, the fact remains that in his hands certain periods seem to gain, in space at least, at the expense of others. This is notably the case in the chapter on William and Mary. The thirteen years which it covers receive but twenty-one pages, as against forty-nine devoted to the twelve years of Queen Anne. The whole period from 1685 to 1702 gets but thirty-nine pages, about the same as the eleven years from 1649 to 1660, whereas the twenty-two years of James I. are allowed fifty-eight pages, Charles I. a hundred and sixty, and Charles II. ninety-five. And though one would deplore the absence of the introductory chapter noted above, its length seems somewhat disproportionate to the scale of the ensuing narrative. This circumstance may not be unconnected with the sources whence the material for the volume was drawn. The basis of the narrative to 1660 is, of course, Gardiner, though this has not been followed slavishly in any sense. Mr. Trevelyan's own knowledge of literature, especially the drama, has contributed not a little, and he has used many other books besides those of Gardiner. And he has, above all, vivified many parts of the story with imaginative touch and telling phrase. This part of the book is in many ways the best.

After 1660 there appears something of a decline in interest and importance. Thenceforth the author leans more upon Ranke, whose work he declares has been "too much neglected". The Restoration is to him little more than the epilogue of the Civil Wars and the prologue of the Revolution. He says, among other things, "The history of the years 1661 to 1678, though crowded with a sequence of famous events and a mob of brilliant men, is yet . . . lacking in unity and . . . barren of decisive result" (p. 349). From the standpoint of court and foreign affairs this is without doubt true. But that is hardly half of the story. The rise of opposition in the Commons and the formation of political parties, if nothing else, gives unity to precisely this period. The struggle for control of accounts during which Clarendon fell; the passage of the Test Act which wrecked the Catholic party and preceded the fall of the Cabal; and the attack on the prerogative in foreign affairs which accompanied the decline and fall of Danby produced results which certainly refute any such dictum as this, even omitting the settlement

of Church and State accomplished during this period. It is, besides, more than questionable whether the stock account of the years immediately preceding the Popish Plot in any sense accords with the facts now coming to light. With respect to the politico-religious situation between 1661 and 1685 it is difficult as yet to speak with much exactness. But the reports of the Corporation Commissioners, in so far as we have them, the lists of preachers and conventicles licensed by 1673, and the situation in Parliament certainly give much ground to question the accepted view.

But it would be unfair to pursue further a criticism of this book for what it does not pretend to be, a scientific history based on original research. It is, on the whole, abreast of the times. It is, on the whole, accurate. It is well conceived, well written, and eminently readable, and is without doubt the best, if not the only, single-volume history of the seventeenth century. Every scholar figures to himself the period in which his special work lies. Any two opinions of the same period would doubtless differ. Yet it is well that some such picture should be drawn for the general reader, and it is fortunate that in this case the picture is so well drawn. One may differ from the spirit which permits a fling at the "dull Germans" who laboriously manufactured a theological system out of Luther's word (p. 153); one might well question the complete accuracy of the account of the situation preceding the expedition of William III. to England (p. 442); one might question such generalizations as the complete exclusion of nonconformists from local and national administration for many generations after 1689 (pp. 450-451). One might have some doubts as to the optimism which voices itself in two such widely separated propositions as that "It was the good fortune of England", in the reign of Anne, "to get all that was good out of both parties, when a few turns of chance would, as often happens, have given her all that was worst" (p. 469); and that "the laws of the Cavalier Parliament, which were meant to dragoon all England into one religion, have helped to secure freedom for a hundred religions, and a thousand ways of thought" (p. 346). One is tempted, in view of this, to reflect that this is, after all, the best of all possible worlds. But, despite these things, one may gladly admit the many virtues of a book which is on the whole so satisfactory.

With respect to the volume aside from the text, it is proper to observe that it is handsomely printed on light-weight paper, convenient to handle, and easy to read. It has a good index and a bibliography which, though complete enough for its purpose, hardly bears out the editor's generous suggestion of a wealth of new material. It does however include a very considerable number of recent and notable books and articles whose influence is apparent throughout the volume. Five maps accompany and illustrate the text, together with three appendixes and tables of genealogies and Parliaments. A few typographical errors serve to emphasize the general excellence of that important part of any book: *weer* for *were* (p. 43); *Wocester* (p. 302); *republican* (p. 209) seems to lack a

final *s*, as *Woods* (p. 417 note) seems to have one to spare; and *Sichell* (p. 531) boasts an *l* too much. Finally, it is unfortunate that the bibliography could not have been arranged somewhat more conveniently within the periods.

WILBUR C. ABBOTT.

Memoirs of a Royal Chaplain, 1729–1763. The Correspondence of Edmund Pyle, D.D., Chaplain in Ordinary to George II., with Samuel Kerrich, D.D., Vicar of Dersingham, Rector of Wolverton, and Rector of West Newton. Annotated and edited by ALBERT HARTSHORNE. (London and New York: John Lane Company. 1905. Pp. xi, 388.)

THE entire collection of letters from which Mr. Albert Hartshorne has selected this volume consists, as he states in the preface, of seven thousand letters, now arranged in twenty-eight folio volumes. They cover the period from 1675 to 1828, a few letters being of earlier date—from 1633. This wealth of material has been somewhat of an embarrassment to Mr. Hartshorne, who possesses moreover an exact and detailed knowledge of the genealogy and career of every individual mentioned in the letters selected. Mr. Hartshorne's life has been spent in archæological investigation in the Midland counties of England, and his published works are full of the detail and minutiae which necessarily characterize the study which he has made specially his own.

In dealing with the Pyle letters, Mr. Hartshorne has not been able to refrain from overloading his pages with details of the life and genealogy of all the personages whose names occur in the letters—even those most casually mentioned; and much of what he has incorporated in the text is purely of the nature of foot-notes. The introductory biographical notes have somewhat the same characteristic. Much is given by Mr. Hartshorne which is repeated later in the letters, and some exception might be taken to the detail with which the ramifications of Samuel Kerrich's family are gone into. For the understanding of the letters, a much briefer sketch of Kerrich would have sufficed.

It is but an ungrateful task to find fault with an author for telling us too much, and the curious searchers into genealogies may learn much both from the letters and from Mr. Hartshorne's notes. To students of political and ecclesiastical history in the eighteenth century the Pyle letters are of great value. Edmund Pyle, during the period covered by the correspondence, held the livings of Gedney in Lincolnshire and Lynn in Norfolk. Later in the correspondence he became archdeacon of York, and in 1752 "Friend and Companion" to Bishop Hoadly of Winchester. His position as royal chaplain, which he held from 1740, did not bring him into any close relation with George II.; and we learn from his letters nothing of fashionable or court life.

From first to last the absorbing interest of the letters is preferment; and nowhere in English memoirs or letters do we find a more vivid